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ABSTRACT

OF THE

Instrument of Institution and Laws

OF THE

Royal Academy of Arts

IN

L O N D O N.

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THE BRITISH MUSEUM

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ROYAL ACADEMY.

THE Society shall consist of Forty Members, who shall be called ACADEMICIANS of the Royal Academy;

There shall be another order, or rank of Members, who shall be called ASSOCIATES of the Royal Academy;

And also a number of Engravers, who shall be called ASSOCIATE ENGRAVERS of the Royal Academy.

They shall all of them be men of fair moral characters, of high reputation in their several professions; resident in Great Britain; and not members of any other Society of Artists established in London.

ACADEMICIANS.

All vacancies shall be filled up by election, from amongst the Associates in the Royal Academy, who are at least five and twenty years of age: a months notice shall be given in writing of the day of election to all the Academicians, with an enclosed list of the Associates. On that day each Academician shall deliver his marked list, which list shall be scrutinized, and the two Associates who are found to have the greatest number of suffrages shall, in a second ballot, be opposed to each other, and he who has the majority shall be deemed duly elected; but he shall not receive his Diploma till he hath been approved of by his MAJESTY, and hath deposited in the Royal Academy (to remain there) a picture, bas-relief, or other specimen of his abilities, approved of by the then sitting Council of the Academy; which picture, bas-relief, or other specimen of his abilities, shall be presented for the consideration of the Council, on or be-

fore the 1st of October next ensuing his election; in failure of which, his election shall become void, unless such an apology be made by him, for the omission, as shall, or may be deemed sufficient, by the Council.

ASSOCIATES.

They shall be Artists by profession, that is to say, Painters, Sculptors, or Architects; their number shall not exceed twenty; they shall be at least twenty four years of age, and not apprentices: these Associates shall be elected by ballot from amongst the Exhibitors in the Royal Exhibition, in the same manner as Academicians, the name of such as are candidates having been previously put up in the Academy for two months. They shall be entitled to every advantage enjoyed by the Academicians, excepting that of having a voice in the deliberations, or any share in the government of the Academy. These Associates when elected shall be summoned to attend the Council, to sign the Instrument of In-

stitution, and to receive their Diploma, signed by the President and Secretary. The vacant seats of Academicians shall be filled from the body of these Associates only.

ASSOCIATE ENGRAVERS.

A number of Engravers, not exceeding six, shall also be admitted, who shall be called Associate Engravers of the Royal Academy, and shall be elected by ballot in the same manner as the Academicians: but each candidate must send a print of his own engraving to the Council, which, if approved of, shall be hung up in the Academy for one month, previous to the election. These Associates shall not be admitted into any of the offices of the Academy, nor have any vote in their assemblies, but in other respects they shall enjoy all the advantages of Academicians.

Each Associate Engraver shall have the liberty of exhibiting two prints, either compositions of his own, or engravings

from other masters, which have not been published; and these shall be the only prints admitted in the Royal Exhibition.

PRESIDENT.

For the government of the Academy, there shall be annually elected a President, and eight other persons, who shall form a Council, which shall have the entire direction and management of all the business of the Society.

The President shall have power to summon the Council and general assemblies of the Academicians as often as he shall think it necessary.

The President shall have power to nominate one of the Council to act as President in his absence.

The President or his deputy, and no other person, shall have power to summon either the Council or General Assembly.

COUNCIL.

The seats in the Council shall go by succession to all the Academicians, except the Secretary, who shall always belong thereto; four of the Council shall go out by rotation every year, and these shall not re-occupy their seats in the Council till all the rest of the Academicians have served.

The Council shall frame all new laws and regulations, but they shall have no force till ratified by the consent of the General Assembly, and the approbation of the KING.

All laws and regulations, which may from time to time be made by the Council, shall be confirmed at a subsequent meeting of the Council, before they are presented to the General Assembly of the Academicians, for their consent.

All sums of money which shall hereafter be received by the Treasurer, on account of the Royal Academy, shall be immedi-

ately paid by him into the hands of a banker, appointed by the Council.

The Council shall direct all purchases of stock in the funds, hereafter to be made, and the Treasurer shall not be at liberty to dispose of any sums of money remaining in his or the banker's hands, without the order and direction of Council.

The Council shall determine the Subjects for all the premiums to be given to the Students.

All business relative to the Royal Academy, which is to be laid before His Majesty; after it has been settled by the Council, in the usual form, shall be presented to the KING, by the President, attended either by the Secretary, or the Treasurer, as the nature of the business shall require, and they shall make report to the Council, of His Majesty's pleasure thereon.

All the officers and servants of the Academy shall be subservient to the Council,

which shall have power to reform all abuses, to censure such as are deficient in their duty, and, with the consent of the general body, and the KING's permission first obtained for that purpose, to suspend, or entirely remove from their employments, such as shall be found guilty of any great offences.

The Council shall meet as often as the business of the Society shall require it; every member shall be punctual to the hour of appointment, under the penalty of a fine, at the option of the Council; and, at each meeting, the attending members shall receive two pounds five shillings, to be equally divided amongst them; in which division, the Secretary shall not be included.

A meeting of Five Members of the Council, including the President or his deputy, shall be deemed a Quorum.

In the absence of the President or his deputy, it shall be in the power of Five in the Council to nominate a Chairman for that meeting, and proceed to business.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

There shall be annually one general meeting of the whole body, or more, if requisite, to elect a President, Council, Visitors, and Auditors ; to adjudge the premiums to be given to the Students ; to elect those who are to be sent abroad ; to hear complaints and redress grievances ; and do any other business relative to the Society.

Ten in the General Assembly, including the President or his deputy, shall be deemed a full meeting.

In the absence of the President or his deputy, it shall be in the power of Ten in the General Assembly, to nominate a Chairman for that meeting, and to proceed immediately to business.

If at a General Assembly of the Academicians, Five Members object to any law, or regulation, made in the Council for the government of the Society, they shall de-

liver their objections in writing, signed with their respective names ; which done, the law or regulation objected to shall be referred to the Council to be re-considered.

Every Academician who attends at a General Assembly, shall receive five shillings for his attendance.

OFFICERS.

SECRETARY.

There shall be a Secretary of the Royal Academy, elected by ballot, from amongst the Academicians, and approved of by the KING ; his business shall be to keep the minutes of the Council, write letters, send summonses ; attend and assist in disposing the performances, sent for Exhibition, make out the catalogues, &c. He shall also, when the Keeper of the Academy is indisposed, take upon himself the care of the Antique Academy, for which he shall

be properly qualified ; he shall jointly with the Keeper have the directions of the servants of the Academy. His salary shall be sixty pounds a year ; he shall have a convenient apartment in the Royal Academy, and he shall continue in office during the KING's pleasure.

KEEPER.

There shall be a Keeper of the Royal Academy, elected by ballot, from amongst the Academicians ; he shall be an Artist, properly qualified to instruct the Students ; his business shall be to superintend the Academy, the models, casts, books, and other moveables belonging thereto ; to attend regularly the Antique Academy, to preserve order and decorum, and to give advice and instruction to the Students. He shall, with the assistance of the Visitor, provide the living models. He shall attend and assist in disposing the performances sent for Exhibition. He shall have jointly with the Secretary, the direction of all the servants of

the Academy; his salary shall be one hundred pounds a year; he shall have a convenient apartment allotted him in the Royal Academy, where he shall constantly reside; and he shall continue in office during the KING's pleasure.

TREASURER.

There shall be a Treasurer of the Royal Academy, who shall be appointed by his MAJESTY from amongst the Academicians; his business shall be to receive the profits of the Academy, to pay its expences; to report to the Council the necessary repairs and alterations, and examine all bills. He shall be summoned to all meetings of the Council by right of his office, and have the liberty of giving his opinion in all debates; but shall have no vote, except he is of the Council for the time being. He shall once in every quarter lay a fair state of his accounts before the Council; and when they have passed examination, he shall lay them before the Keeper of his MAJESTY's Privy Purse, to be by him finally

audited, and the deficiency, (if there should be any,) paid. His salary shall be sixty pounds a year.

In the Month of January in every year, the Treasurer shall deliver in an account of the whole receipts and disbursements of the foregoing year, fairly written, and arranged under distinct heads, in the same order as the Book of General Accounts compiled by the Committee, and deposited in the Royal Academy.

The Treasurer shall deliver the Quarterly Bills with their Abstract and the Annual Account to the Secretary, who shall immediately give notice thereof to the Auditors, that they may inspect and report upon the same to the Council, which accounts, when they have passed the Council and been approved of by his MAJESTY, shall be fairly entered in the General Book of Accounts, described above, which book as well as the original bills, vouchers, and receipts after payment, shall be kept in the Academy, in the custody of the Secretary.

The Treasurer shall not be at liberty to dispose of any sums of money remaining in his hands, without the order and direction of the Council.

LIBRARIAN.

There shall be a Librarian of the Royal Academy, who shall be appointed by his MAJESTY, from amongst the Academicians; his business shall be to attend the Library on public days, to preserve order, and to see that no damage be done to the books, &c. His salary shall be fifty pounds a year, and he shall continue in office during the KING's pleasure.

VISITORS.

There shall be elected, annually, from amongst the Academicians, nine persons, who shall be called Visitors; they shall be Painters of History, able Sculptors, or other persons properly qualified; their business

shall be to attend the Life Academy, one month each, by rotation, to set the figures, to examine and correct the performances of the Students, and give them their advice and instruction.

The Visitor for the time being shall be considered as master of the living Academy. Neither the Keeper, nor any other Academician, shall enter the room whilst the Visitor is setting the model; nor shall they give any instructions, or orders whatsoever, whilst the Visitor is present.

The Visitors shall draw lots for the days of their attendance; which regulation shall be put up in the Academy.

These officers shall be approved of by the KING; they shall receive ten shillings and sixpence for each time of attending, which shall be at least two hours, and shall be subject to a fine of ten shillings and six-pence whenever they neglect to attend, unless they appoint a proxy, from amongst the Visitors for the time being; in

which case, the said proxy shall be intitled to the reward: at every annual election of Visitors, four or five, alternately, of the old Visitors shall go out by rotation.

AUDITORS.

There shall be two Auditors of the accounts of the Royal Academy, who shall be chosen by ballot from amongst the Academicians on the 10th of December in every year.

They shall examine the Treasurer's quarterly and annual accounts, they shall report upon and certify the same to the Council, they shall inspect the Banker's book, and specify the balance of cash remaining in the Treasurer's hand at the time of passing his account.

FUNDS OF THE ACADEMY.

All monies which now are, or may hereafter be agreed upon to be laid out in the purchase of stock in the public funds, shall be vested in the names of the President, the Secretary, and Treasurer for the time being, and one other Member of the Royal Academy, to be chosen by the Council; and the Council shall direct the Treasurer or any other Trustee to receive the dividends as they become due; the four Trustees shall accept all stock purchased by order of Council, by signing their names in the books at the Bank of England.

The four Trustees above mentioned shall execute a declaration of trust, to be deposited in the Royal Academy, setting forth that the several sums standing in their joint names in the books at the Bank of England, are not their own property, but the property of the Members of the Royal Academy, and that their names are made use of as Trustees only.

Whenever a successor shall be appointed to fill up any vacancy, occasioned by the death of one of the Trustees above mentioned; they shall immediately after such appointment, apply to the executors of the deceased Trustee for an abstract of the probate of his will, or any other authentic instrument, necessary to prove his death at the Bank of England; that the name of the deceased may be removed from the books, and the name of the new Trustee inserted in its place; a new declaration of trust, as before described, must then be executed by all the parties, if necessary.

GENERAL REGULATIONS.

Though it may not be for the benefit of the institution absolutely to prohibit pluralities, yet they are as much as possible to be avoided; that his MAJESTY'S gracious intention may be complied with, by dividing, as nearly as possible, the emoluments of the institution amongst all its Members.

If any member shall become obnoxious

to the society by improper conduct, he may be reprimanded, suspended, or expelled, by the majority of a General Assembly of Academicians, to be decided by ballot, and subject to his MAJESTY'S pleasure.

PROFESSORS.

PAINTING.

There shall be a Professor of Painting, who shall read annually six lectures in the Royal Academy, calculated to instruct the Students in the principles of composition; to form their taste for design and colouring; to strengthen their judgment; to point out to them the beauties and imperfections of celebrated works of art, and the particular excellencies and defects of great masters; and finally, to lead them into the readiest and most efficacious paths of study: his salary shall be thirty pounds a year, and he shall continue in office during the KING'S pleasure.

ARCHITECTURE.

There shall be a Professor of Architecture, who shall read annually six public lectures in the Royal Academy, calculated to form the taste of the Students ; to instruct them in the laws and principles of composition ; to point out to them the beauties or faults of celebrated productions ; to fit them for an unprejudiced study of books on the Art, and for a critical examination of structures : his salary shall be thirty pounds a year, and he shall continue in office during the KING's pleasure.

PERSPECTIVE.

There shall be a Professor of Perspective and Geometry, who shall read annually six public lectures in the Royal Academy, in which the most useful propositions of Geometry, together with the principles of lineal and aerial Perspective, shall be fully and clearly illustrated : he shall continue

in office during the KING's pleasure, and his salary shall be thirty pounds a year.

ANATOMY.

There shall be a Professor of Anatomy, who shall read annually six public lectures in the Royal Academy, adapted to the Arts of Design: his salary shall be thirty pounds a year, and he shall continue in office during the KING's pleasure.

All these Professors shall be elected by ballot, and the three first from amongst the Academicians.

SCHOOLS.

There shall be a Summer and Winter Academy furnished with living models of both sexes, plaister figures, bas-reliefs, and lay-men with proper draperies, under the regulations expressed in the by-laws of the Society, free to all Students qualified for admission to the same.

The Winter Academy shall begin at six o'clock in the evening, and the Summer Academy at five.

Two or more living models of different characters shall be provided by the Keeper and Visitors for the time being.

Any one of the Academicians shall, upon proper application to the Keeper, have use of the model Academy, and leave to introduce any model, male or female, provided it does not interfere with the usual business of the Academy.

The Academicians of St. Luke at Rome, and of the Royal Academies of Painting and Sculpture, and of Architecture, at Paris, shall be allowed free admittance to draw in the Academy, and to the Lectures; and the President is empowered to grant a Ticket of general admittance for that purpose.

VACATIONS.

There shall be three Vacations in the year. The first to commence on Christmas eve, and end on the Epiphany. The second to commence on the twenty eighth day of March, and end on his Majesty's birthday. The third to commence on the first day of September, and end on the feast of St. Michael.

LIBRARY.

There shall be a Library of Books of Architecture, Sculpture, Painting, and all the sciences relating thereto; also of prints, bas-reliefs, vases, trophies, ornaments, dresses, ancient and modern, customs and ceremonies, instruments of war and arts, utensils of sacrifice, and all other things useful to Students in the Arts; which Library shall be open one day in every week to all Students properly qualified: the Librarian shall attend in the room, during the

whole time it is open, to keep order, and to see that no damage be done to the books. No books shall, under any pretence, be suffered to be taken out of the Library; but every Academician and Associate shall have free ingress at all seasonable times of the day, upon application made to the Librarian or Keeper, to consult the books, and to make sketches from them.

There shall be a catalogue of all the Books in the Library printed for the use of the Academicians and Associates.

INSPECTORS.

A Committee, consisting of not less than two of the Council, shall once in every year, with the assistance of the Librarian, examine the state of the Books, Prints, &c. in the Library, and report such improvements as may be necessary.

A Committee, consisting of not less than two of the Council, shall once in every year, with the assistance of the Keeper,

examine the Models, Casts, &c. belonging to the Royal Academy, and report such improvements as may be necessary.

An Inventory of all the Pictures, Casts, Models, Furniture, Plate, and every thing else, belonging to the Royal Academy, shall be taken, and with a catalogue of the Books in the Library, shall be fairly written, and deposited in the custody of the Secretary.

EXHIBITION.

There shall be an annual Exhibition of Paintings, Sculptures, and Designs, in which all Artists of distinguished merit shall be permitted to exhibit their works; it shall continue open to the public six weeks, or longer, at the discretion of the Council, and be under the regulations expressed in the by-laws of the Society.

The money received at the Exhibition, after payment of the annual and contingent expences, and the usual charitable donations, shall be hereafter applied towards the

increase of the stock in the 3 per cent. consolidated annuities, which shall be called the *Pension Fund*: and when the said stock shall amount to 10,000l., the Council shall have power to give the following pensions, viz.

To an Academician a pension not exceeding 50l. per ann., provided the sum given does not make his annual income exceed 100l.

To an Associate a pension not exceeding 30l. per ann., provided the sum given does not make his annual income exceed 80l.

To a widow of an Academician a pension not exceeding 30l. per ann., provided the sum given does not make her annual income exceed 80l.

To a widow of an Associate a pension not exceeding 20l. per ann., provided the sum given does not make her annual income exceed 50l.

When the fund shall be increased to

15,000l., the Council shall have power to give the following pensions, viz.

To an Academician a pension not exceeding 60l. per ann., provided the sum given does not make his annual income exceed 100l.

To an Associate a pension not exceeding 36l. per ann., provided the sum given does not make his annual income exceed 80l.

To a widow of an Academician a pension not exceeding 36l. per ann., provided the sum given does not make her annual income exceed 80l.

To a widow of an Associate a pension not exceeding 25l. per ann., provided the sum given does not make her annual income exceed 50l.

When the fund shall be increased to 20,000l., the Council shall have power to give the following pensions, viz.

To an Academician a pension not exceeding 70l. per ann., provided the sum given

does not make his annual income exceed 100l.

To an Associate a pension not exceeding 50l. per ann., provided the sum given does not make his annual income exceed 80l.

To a widow of an Academician a pension not exceeding 50l. per ann., provided the sum given does not make her annual income exceed 80l.

To a widow of an Associate a pension not exceeding 30l. per ann., provided the sum given does not make her annual income exceed 50l.

Every Academician, Associate, widow of an Academician, and widow of an Associate, who is a claimant for a pension from the Royal Academy, shall produce such proofs, as the President and Council may require, of their situation and circumstances; and in this examination the President and Council shall consider themselves as scrupulously bound to investigate each claim, and to make proper discriminations

between imprudent conduct, and the unavoidable failure of professional employment, in the members of the Society; and also to satisfy themselves in respect to the moral conduct of their widows.

Any Academician, or Affociate, who shall omit exhibiting in the Royal Academy for two successive years, shall have no claim on the Pension Fund, under any of the regulations above mentioned, unless he can give satisfactory proof to the President and Council, that such omission was occasioned by illness, age, or any other cause, which they shall think a reasonable excuse. This limitation not to extend to Sculptors, who are to be allowed three years, nor to Academicians or Affociates, who have attained the age of sixty.

These pensions shall not preclude any Academician, Affociate, or their widows, in cases of particular distress, arising from young children, or other causes, from receiving such temporary relief, as may appear to the Council to be necessary or proper to be granted: But it is to be strictly under-

stood, that THIS PENSION FUND shall, on no account, be considered as liable to claims to relieve such difficulties. All sums paid, on account of claims of such a nature, shall be carried to the current expences of the year.

After the Pension Fund is made up 20,000l. 3 per cents., all future savings shall be vested in the public funds, and be applied to the general purposes of the Academy.

CHARITY.

Every Academician shall have the privilege of recommending proper objects, (being artists, their widows, or children,) for the annual charitable donations, which shall be done by letter addressed to the President and Council, accompanied by a certificate of the qualifications and morals of the person recommended.

PREMIUMS.

Premiums of gold and silver medals shall be given to the Students of the Royal Academy.

The number and distribution of the said medals shall be determined by the majority of Academicians, upon the first day of December, and their decision shall be declared, and the medals given upon the tenth day of December, being the anniversary of the institution of the Royal Academy.

A premium of a gold medal shall be given for the best Picture in oil colours.

A premium of a gold medal shall be given for the best model of a bas-relief, to consist of not less than three figures.

A premium of a gold medal shall be given for the best Design in Architecture, consisting of one or more plans, an elevation, and section.

The subjects for all these compositions shall be determined by the President and Council,

The candidates for the premiums of the gold medals, are to attend upon the fifteenth day of November, in the Royal Academy, in order to give a proof of their abilities, by making a sketch of a given subject in the presence of the Keeper.

The subjects for the sketches to be determined by the President and Council, at a previous Council; each Member to produce, or send three subjects, viz. one in each class, which, if approved of, shall be sealed up, and drawn for by the senior Student, on the morning of the trial.

The time allowed for making these sketches to be five hours, from ten in the morning till three in the afternoon.

The candidates for the historical picture to make their sketches in oil colours.

No Student shall be admitted a candidate

for the gold medals, in painting and sculpture, that does not regularly attend the Schools of Design. Nor shall any Student in Architecture be admitted a candidate for the gold medal, unless he regularly attends the Lectures and Library.

The premiums of the gold medals shall be given every other year, if the performances be deemed entitled to them.

The Female Academicians are allowed to vote for the premiums of the gold medals, by sending their ballot inclosed in a letter to the President, or by attending themselves.

When the gold medals are given on the tenth of December before mentioned, a number of silver medals, not exceeding nine, shall also be given to the Students for the best drawings or models of Academy figures, done in the Academy, and for the best accurate figured drawings of some noted building in London, or within ten miles thereof, done from actual measurements, carefully finished and washed, attested to be their

own performance by any one of the Academicians, or any other artist of reputation resident in London.

In the intermediate years, only three silver medals shall be given, viz.

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| One for the best drawing of an Academy figure, | } Done in the Academy. |
| One for the best model of an Academy figure, | |
| One for the best drawing of architecture, being a copy of some noted building. | |

All the Students who are candidates for the premiums are to enter their names in the Keeper's book; and the drawings or models done in the Academy are to be left with the Keeper.

No Student who has already gained a medal shall be admitted a candidate a second time for the same premium.

The pictures, models, and designs for all the premiums shall be delivered to the

Keeper of the Royal Academy, upon the first day of November.

ELECTIONS.

All modes of Election shall be regulated by the by-laws of the Society.

Neither the President nor the Secretary shall have any vote in the Council or General Assembly, excepting the suffrages are equal; in which case the President shall have the casting vote.

The annual Election of President, Council, Visitors, and Auditors, shall be on the tenth day of December, being the anniversary of the institution of the Royal Academy; but the persons elected shall not enter into their several offices till the first day of January following.

The general annual election shall be by ballot of the Members present, and shall be decided by the majority.

The names of Academicians, whose permanent residence is more than six miles from Somerset Place, shall be omitted in the lists delivered out for the election of Council.

The vacancies of Associates shall be filled up on the first Monday in November, and the vacancies of Academicians on the tenth day of February, excepting such a vacancy happens between the tenth of January and the tenth of February, in that case the election shall be postponed to the year following, on account of one months notice being required before an election.

If at any election of an Academician or Associate, there shall appear three or more Candidates who have an equal number of suffrages, a ballot shall be taken of the Members present, to reduce them to two, previous to the second ballot.

SERVANTS.

There shall be a House-keeper of the Royal Academy, whose salary, for herself and assistants, shall be 42 pounds a year.

There shall be a Porter of the Royal Academy, whose salary shall be forty pounds a year.

There shall be an assistant Porter of the Royal Academy, whose salary shall be thirty pounds a year.

All the Servants shall be under the immediate direction of the Secretary and Keeper.



